

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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Serving The
Timberlane Regional School District
Hampstead School District

March 5, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff members,

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed of our efforts to monitor and address concerns associated with the coronavirus. Our office is in consistent contact with state officials and we will continue to be proactive in our preventative measures. To date, additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in our buildings, daily disinfectant spray is applied to all common areas including door handles, desktops, tabletops and hard surfaces, and buildings are sanitized twice a week.

We have an established protocol for staff (including coaches, volunteers, bus drivers and substitutes) and students who have traveled to identified coronavirus countries/areas as well as for the siblings of those students. It is important to note that we are in the self-monitoring and self-care phase of this public health event and we must rely on district families to heed the cautions of the Center for Disease Control and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS). *The NH Bureau of Infectious Disease Control is manning phones 24/7 to answer questions and provide support. Their daytime phone number is 603-271-4496 (603-271-5300 after 4pm). We encourage concerned individuals to contact them directly should they have questions they feel are not being answered with general information updates.*

PREVENTION

As a reminder, we ask households to adopt the following preventative measures:

- Wash hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Stay home from school when sick with cold or flu-like symptoms or if not feeling well
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis

PROTOCOL FOR EXPOSURE


Should a student or staff member believe he or she has been exposed to the virus, the following protocol (along with the preventative measures listed above) should be followed:

- Stay home and avoid public places when sick (i.e. social distancing)
- Avoid being within 6 feet (close contact) of a person who is sick
- Avoid sharing drinks, or other utensils or objects that may transmit saliva
- Contact healthcare provider immediately if symptomatic of coughing, fever, difficulty breathing.

(See <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/2019-coronavirus-self-observation-guidelines.pdf>)

As we have stated before, we believe the best defense for limiting students and staff exposure to viruses and the flu is to communicate and educate about risks and preventions. Important and up-to-date information about the virus can be found at these websites: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html> and <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>. We will continue to provide updates as needed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Earl Metzler,
Superintendent of Schools